

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 241124Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1084
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: DISAGREEMENT AMONG MINISTERS AND
REACTION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. THE CITIZEN CORRESPONDENT IN SALISBURY, IAN BLACK,
REPORTED ON APRIL 20 THAT THERE WAS A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN
BYRON HOVE, BLACK MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND HIS WHITE COUNTER-
PART HILARY SQUIRES.

2. HOVE WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID IN A SPEECH "THERE SHOULD
BE POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR OF THE AFRICAN POLICEMEN.
HE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FOR ALL THESE YEARS."

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HOVE ALSO SAID SALARIES OF BLACK POLICEMEN SHOULD BE-
UPGRADED IMMEDIATELY.

3. SQUIRES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ACCOUNT, REACTED
IMMEDIATELY BY SAYING THAT "...SUCH STATEMENTS SHOULD
BE POSITIVELY DISMISSED FOR WHAT THEY ARE-AT BEST A
MISUNDERSTANDING OF (THE SALISBURY ACCORD) AND AT

WORST AN IRRESPONSIBLE ATTEMPT TO QUERY ITS TERMS."

4. SQUIRES REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO CHARACTERIZE HOVE'S STATEMENT AS A SUGGESTION THAT THE RHODESIAN POLICE BE RESTRUCTURED.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED THE REACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO HOVE'S REMARKS. THE COUNCIL IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HOVE SHOULD PUBLICLY WITHDRAW HIS REMARKS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY CONCERNING "POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION" (UPGRADING OF BLACKS ON BLACK SALARIES IN THE RHODESIAN POLICE FORCE).

6. THE COUNCIL INCLUDING THE THREE BLACK MEMBERS IS REPORTED TO HAVE "REMINDING" ALL MINISTERS THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP TO THE LETTER OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND HONOR THE SPIRIT OF THE ACCORD.

7. PRESS ACCOUNTS ON APRIL 24 STATE THAT HOVE HAS THREATENED TO RETURN TO ENGLAND TO RESUME HIS LEGAL CAREER (HOVE JOINED THE CABINET AFTER A TWELVE YEAR EXILE IN ENGLAND) IF HE BECOMES "INEFFECTIVE AND ABSORBED IN A SITUATION WHERE MY FELLOW POLITICIANS ARE TOO TIED UP IN THEIR OWN SELF-INTEREST OR THEIR OWN PARTICULAR CLIQUES." SAME ACCOUNTS SAY THAT, ALTHOUGH MUZOREWA HAS ENDORSED THE COUNCIL'S CALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR HOVE TO RETRACT HIS STATEMENT, THE UANC PUBLICITY SECRETARY HAS SUPPORTED HOVE, SAYING "IF ANYBODY SHOULD RESIGN IT SHOULD BE HILARY SQUIRES."

8. COMMENT: GIVEN THE POSITION OF THE THREE BLACKS IN A STILL WHITE-RUN GOVERNMENT IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY ADMONISHED HOVE FOR HIS CALL TO ADJUST THE CHARACTER OF THE POLICE TO CONFORM TO MAJORITY RULE. THE BLACK COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL MOST PROBABLY WANT TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE UNTIL THEY GET SOME REAL POWER.

9. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE BLACK COUNCIL MEMBERS ACTED TOGETHER IN ADMONISHING HOVE, WHO IS MUZOREWA'S APPOINTMENT, BUT MUZOREWA MAY STILL BE HANGING ON TO THE APPEARANCE OF INDEPENDENCE BY ALLOWING HIS PUBLICITY SECRETARY TO DEVIATE FROM THE COUNCIL'S LINE.

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